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**REPRESENTATIVE**

**DRIEHAUS PUSHES FOR HEALTHCARE CALCULATOR**

**WASHINGTON, DC**—Representative Steve Driehaus today pushed for the creation of a Small Business Healthcare Calculator to assist small business owners and employees in determining how healthcare reform efforts will affect their healthcare costs and coverage. In meetings with Congressional leaders, Rep. Driehaus proposed that this resource be made available online so that the public has easy access to critical information pertaining to healthcare reform.

Representative Driehaus offered his plan earlier this week at a meeting of Democratic House members, where it received praise from other Democratic Caucus members. Rep. Driehaus today reiterated his idea in a letter to House Speaker Nancy Pelosi.

“Small businesses are being hit hard by increasing healthcare costs, forcing small business owners to reduce or drop coverage for their employees. We need to provide a resource that will give clear and honest details about how healthcare reform will impact costs for small business,” said Rep. Driehaus. “The public needs accurate information about what we’re doing to fix healthcare in this country, and I look forward to working with my colleagues to find solutions that provide quality, affordable care for every American.”

The Small Business Healthcare Calculator would take into account a variety of factors such as the number of part- and fulltime employees and family members, payroll, and revenue. The data be used to calculate information about potential tax credits or surcharges for small businesses depending on the healthcare benefits they provide to employees.

Text of Rep. Driehaus’s letter to Speaker Pelosi follows.

September 11, 2009

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi Speaker of the House U.S. House of Representatives H 232,  
the Capitol

Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Madam Speaker:

As Congress moves forward with the consideration of proposed healthcare reform legislation, I am writing to follow up on my request for a small business health care calculator, which I discussed at Wednesday's breakfast and caucus meeting.

According to recent Census data, the number of uninsured in the United States rose by 7.9 million people between 2000 and 2008. In that same time, the number of people covered by private insurance declined by 5.9 percent. In the current economic climate, these trends likely will continue, placing heavy burdens on America's small businesses that already struggle to balance rising costs with quality health insurance plans.

I believe that providing small businesses and individuals with accurate information is critically important to the healthcare debate. Specifically, I have requested the creation of an online calculator that small businesses and individuals could access to determine how the proposed healthcare legislation will impact their bottom line. Currently, the Center for American Progress offers a similar calculator on their website (see <http://www.americanprogress.org/issues/2009/09/smallbusinesshealthcare.html>), however it only calculates the annual tax credit that small businesses could achieve and does not indicate potential fees. The small business healthcare calculator that I am proposing should provide more detailed information about credits and costs based on factors such as the number of part- and fulltime employees and family members, payroll, and revenue.

Representative Andrews, Chairman of the Subcommittee on Health, Employment, Labor, and Pensions, is also aware of my request, and his staff has kindly spoken with my office on this matter. I appreciate his interest and am hopeful that the Committee on Education and Labor and the Democratic leadership can coordinate their efforts to ensure that we provide our small businesses with the most exact, complete information possible.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Steve Driehaus Member of Congress

cc: Rep. Robert E. Andrews (D-NJ)

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